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Forschungsreise S.M.S. Planet, 1906-7: I. Band, Reisebeschreibung. xviii and 104 pp., ills., and map; II. Band, Aerologie. 124 pp., and 3 maps. III. Band, Ozeanographie. Von Dr. W. Brennecke. vii and 153 pp. With separate volume of diagrams, charts and photo-engravings; IV. Band, Biologie; Von Dr. Gräf. v and 198 pp., ills., and map; V. Band, Anthropologie und Ethnographie. Beobachtungen und Studien. Von Prof. Dr. A. Krämer. x and 152 pp. and ills. Anhang: Noten zu den phonographischen Melodien aus Madagaskar und Indonesien. Herausgegeben vom Reichs-Marine-Amt. Verlag von Karl Siegismund, Berlin, 1909.

The official account of the results of the first two years (1906-1907) of the German exploring ship *Planet*, in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. The work of this government vessel is still in progress. These volumes are not only the record of scientific studies in the fields of meteorology, oceanography, biology, and anthropology, but also give details of the processes of investigation and discussions relating to the instruments used. The volumes are rich in material for the study of specialists in these branches of science. Many tables accompany the descriptive details.

EUROPE

Die Oberflächengestaltung des norddeutschen Flachlandes. Auf geologischer Grundlage dargestellt von Prof. Dr. Felix Wahnschaffe. Dritte, neu bearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. viii and 405 pp., 24 plates including maps, 39 text illustrations and index. 8vo. J. Engelhorn, Stuttgart, 1909. M. 10.

From a modest little volume in the series "Forschungen zur deutschen Landes-und Volkskunde" this study of the surface forms of Northern Germany has grown to a book of the respectable size of almost 400 pages. Such an increase means, of course, besides the regular bringing-up-to-date of the text, a complete change in the character of the book which, from one among many others, is now considered more or less "the" book on the subject. In its present form it is, indeed, not only a study of special (very special!) German geology, but owing to the pre-eminently glacial origin of the surface forms of the country, it is at the same time a treatise on the most important problems of glaciation, as illustrated in the surface forms of northern Germany, and for this reason it has a more than local importance and will be found a comprehensive and trustworthy reference on these phenomena also by the geologist who is not especially interested in German local geology.

The author discusses, first the relation between the bedrock and the present surface forms; secondly, the influence of glacial and, thirdly, that of postglacial, processes on the same. It appears that the influence of the older formations on the surface forms has been much overestimated. The latter reflect only the most general features of the structure of the former while the surface detail is, as a rule, quite independent of them. The palæozoic and mesozoic rocks, heavily dislocated at various times and further reduced by the effects of erosion and denudation, rarely rise, island-like, out of the younger sediments, and while they often form the foundation of small isolated hills, have nothing to do with the general topography of the country.

Glaciation alone can be made responsible for the latter, which is determined both by the deposit of moraine material and the hollowing out of basins and